

members of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders as, together, they addressed a wide variety of issues affecting the County and its residents. Sheriff Spicuzzo's sincerity and concern for his constituents was apparent, as he consistently worked to improve services, and insured that the public was treated with dignity and respect. He has also been a tireless supporter of local law enforcement as well as State and Federal agencies. During his tenure, Sheriff Spicuzzo has been instrumental in implementing specialized programs including DWI checkpoints and "Operation Spinal Cord". Foreclosure property listings have also been published on the internet in advance, informing and assisting the County and its residents. Sheriff Spicuzzo's thirty years of service to the County Sheriff's Department is an example of unwavering commitment and devotion.

In addition to his role as Sheriff Mr. Spicuzzo has also served as Spotswood Democratic Municipal Chairman and Middlesex County Chairman. In his capacity as Middlesex County Chairman, he led the Middlesex County Democrats toward electoral success and increased the number of minority and women elected officials in the county.

Before entering politics, Sheriff Spicuzzo's background included extensive involvement with various labor organizations. Influenced by both his grandfather and father, Mr. Spicuzzo began as a member of the Laborer's Union Local 156 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He also served as Business Agent for Local 196, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers. His passion and history with these organizations continues to reflect in his daily and political activities.

Sheriff Spicuzzo is well-known for his compassionate and charitable contributions. Specifically, he has been commended for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Middlesex County Heart Association, most notably during radio station WCTC annual telethon. He has also offered his services to the March of Dimes, National Cancer Association, American Red Cross, United Jewish Appeal, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League and the Salvation Army.

As a result of his actions, Sheriff Spicuzzo was the recipient of the 1996 Hubert M. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award. He has also been honored with the 1980 "Outstanding Young Man of America" Award, the 1992 George Otowski Citizen's League "Man of the Year" Award, the March of Dimes "Franklin Award", the Salvation Army "OTHERS" Award and was honored by the American Heart Association. Sheriff Spicuzzo currently resides in Helmetta with his wife, Mary Ann. He also has two children, JoAnn and Charlie, daughter-in-law Denise and two grandsons, Joey and Dominic.

Madam Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Sheriff Spicuzzo's thirty years of service as Middlesex County Sheriff. His dedication and commitment are positive examples of what steadfast determination and allegiance can accomplish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unable to participate in rollcall vote No. 609. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 1642, Recognizing the centennial of the City of Lilburn, Georgia, and supporting the goals and ideals of a City Lilburn Day. This year the City of Lilburn celebrated its centennial anniversary and I am proud to honor its history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting on Tuesday, December 7. If present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 608, rollcall 609, and rollcall 610.

HONORING DONALD L. CARCIERI

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, for his remarkable leadership in the Ocean State. Governor Carcieri will conclude his second term as Governor in January after serving two incredible terms. His record of public service and advocacy for the people of Rhode Island is simply unmatched.

Governor Carcieri was inaugurated as Rhode Island's 57th Governor on January 7, 2003. A native Rhode Island resident, his election followed a career in business that was capped with his tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Cookson America and Joint Managing Director of Cookson Group Worldwide. He retired from that position in 1997.

Governor Carcieri, born December 16, 1942, was the first of Nicola and Marguerite Carcieri's five children. The family lived in East Greenwich where Nicola Carcieri was a beloved teacher and coach at the town high school. As a family man with four children and fourteen grandchildren, ten of whom live in Rhode Island, Governor Carcieri has always taken an active interest in what is going on in his community and the state.

Governor Carcieri has been instrumental in preserving the historic face of Providence: at his urging, the former Providence train station became the headquarters of Cookson America. The company offices overlooked Burnside Park on one side and the Rhode Island State House on the other. He exhibited unwavering leadership during the tragic Station nightclub fire and during the state's disastrous floods.

He memorialized Rhode Island's heroes who fell during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish Don all the best in his future endeavors. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS' AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of a program that has truly served this Nation well: the Federal Home Loan Banks' Affordable Housing Program, AHP. The AHP is funded by contributions of 10 percent of the Federal Home Loan Banks' net income. The AHP represents the largest, single source of private sector grants for housing and community development in the country targeted at underserved segments of the market. The Federal Home Loan Banks have distributed nearly \$4 billion in AHP funds since the program's initiation in 1990.

The AHP is a flexible source of grants and loans designed to help community-based lending institutions and their community partners develop affordable owner-occupied and rental housing for very low- to moderate-income families and individuals. Applicants are encouraged to leverage their awards with other funding sources, including conventional loans, government-supported financing, tax-credit equity, foundation grants, and bond financing.

The Federal Home Loan Banks' affordable housing funds are a significant driver of job growth, housing production, and expanded tax bases, according to a research study recently completed by The Hendrickson Company and The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida. The study sought to quantify the "ripple effect" of AHP dollars in employment, broader development spending, and growth of municipal tax bases. By creating more jobs and building tax bases, as well as developing affordable housing, AHP funds are having a unique and very positive economic impact that goes far beyond the units AHP helps fund or the dollars AHP awards, researchers found.

Created by Congress in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Banks are 12 regional banks, cooperatively owned and used by financial institutions serving America's communities to finance housing and economic development. More than 8,000 lenders are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, representing approximately 80 percent of America's insured lending institutions. The Federal Home Loan Banks and their members have been the largest and most reliable source of funding for community lending for nearly eight decades.

As Congress turns to housing finance reform next year, I strongly encourage returning and new Members of Congress to consider the successes of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and seek to only build upon them in crafting a stronger, more stable housing finance system in the United States for generations to come.